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General Assembly
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 7 January 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Despite the renewed sense of hope in the international community at the start of a new year, hope is regrettably absent in the Occupied State of Palestine, as the Palestinian people have begun yet another year under Israel's belligerent military occupation and the prospects to end this illegal situation and decades-long injustice are as dismal as ever. Throughout the holiday season and into this first week of the year, Palestinian civilians continued to suffer the brutality and criminality of the Israeli occupation, enduring daily civilian casualties, including numerous children and women, and intensifying acts of repression and collective punishment affecting every single aspect of life.

It is in this context that the Palestinian leadership continues to call for international protection for the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. International humanitarian law provides for the protection of civilian persons in situations of armed conflict, including situations of foreign occupation, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. Palestinian civilians are in urgent need of protection, as they remain defenceless and vulnerable in the face of daily killings and injuries committed by the Israeli occupying forces with zero accountability to deter these crimes. We thus again call on the international community to provide protection to the Palestinian people and underscore the particular responsibility of the Security Council in this regard.

As of this date, it has been documented that, since the current period of unrest began on 1 October 2015, 148 Palestinians, among them 27 children and 7 women, have been killed by the occupying forces and terrorist Israeli settlers. Thousands more have been injured, with over 7,000 wounded by either live ammunition or rubber-coated bullets and over 10,000 suffering tear gas inhalation as occupying forces continue to use excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian civilians, and hundreds of others have been assaulted by Israeli soldiers and settlers.

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The recent tragedy that struck the Hammad family of the village of Silwad, north-east of Ramallah, is just one example of the criminal brutality of this occupation that continues to destroy the lives of generations of Palestinians and continues to make peace and coexistence seemingly impossible. On 25 December, Christmas Day, a mother of four children was shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces in cold blood. Mahdiya Mohammed Ibrahim Hammad, age 38, was driving in her car on the afternoon of that day when Israeli soldiers approached her car with weapons pointed. In fear and panic, Mahdiya raised up her hands, yet the car continued to move slowly and the Israeli soldiers began firing at her from all sides. The car veered and hit a cement wall, and yet the soldiers continued to fire at her and even prevented an ambulance from approaching, denying Mahdiya medical aid and leaving her to bleed to death from the 17 bullets shot at her body, including her face, chest and pelvis, and leaving four young children, including a 10-month-old baby, without a mother for the rest of their lives.

The tragic end of Mahdiya's life is symbolic of the tragedies suffered by innumerable Palestinian families as a result of the wrath of this illegal Israeli occupation. The following are just some of the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist Israeli settlers in the recent period against the Palestinian people, and this includes attacks causing death and injury as well as deliberate, illegal acts of colonization and destruction:

24 December 2015:

- Mohammed Zahran (23) was killed after occupying forces had fired multiple shots at him near Salfit
- Eyad Jamal Issa Ideis (25) was killed by occupying forces at the "Ari" military checkpoint
- Wisam Naser Abu Ghwailie (age 20) was shot dead by occupying forces near the illegal settlement of "Adam", located on the land of Jaba town, north-west of Jerusalem
- Bilal Omar Zayed (age 23) was shot dead by occupying forces in the Qalandiya refugee camp

25 December 2015:

- Hani Rafiq Wahdan (age 22) was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces near the Al-Shujayyia neighbourhood in the Gaza Strip

26 December 2015:

- Mos'ab Mahmoud Al-Ghazali (age 26), was shot by occupying forces near the Bab Al-Jadid area in Jerusalem and was left on the ground to bleed to death
- Maher Zaki Al-Jabi (age 56) was killed by occupying forces at the Huwara checkpoint in Nablus

27 December 2015:

- Noureddine Saba'aneh (age 23) and Mohammed Rafeeq Saba'aneh (age 17) were fatally shot by Israeli occupying forces in Huwara village, south of Nablus

- Occupying forces prevented Palestinians from farming their land near Qusra, south of Nablus
- A young Palestinian woman, Enas Al-Sayori (age 23), was injured after an attempted kidnapping by terrorist settlers near Shuafat in Occupied East Jerusalem

28 December 2015:

- Occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians and summoned 8 others in predawn and night raids
- Israel is proceeding with plans for settlement construction in the so-called "E-1" area between the illegal settlement bloc of "Ma'aleh Admumim" and Occupied East Jerusalem
- Yousef Abu Sbeikha (age 48) died of wounds sustained on 25 December after being shot by Israeli occupying forces in central Gaza

29 December 2015:

- Four Palestinian children were attacked by an Israeli settler and occupying forces, including a Palestinian girl, Dana Al-Tamimi (age 7), who was repeatedly struck by the settler, suffering smashed teeth and bruises and cuts on her head, while occupying forces attacked Dana's brother, Mo'tasm (age 10), and two other children, brothers Nabil and Farhat Al-Rajbi (ages 10 and 14)
- Occupying forces demolished a two-storey home under construction belonging to a Palestinian family in the village of Sour Baher, south-east of Jerusalem
- Israeli occupying forces razed an agricultural land near Beit Sahour, east of Bethlehem
- Israel issued military orders for the confiscation of 500 dunums of Palestinian land south of Nablus
- The occupying Power issued administrative detention orders, without charge or trial, against 36 Palestinians; 17 others received renewed orders

30 December 2015:

- Occupying forces detained 28 Palestinians, including 9 children, from across the West Bank
- Israeli occupying forces issued an order to demolish the family house of Mohammed Abdul Baset Al-Hroub, who is being detained in an Israeli prison

31 December 2015:

- Hasan Bzoor (age 22) was killed by Israeli occupying forces near Beita junction, south of Nablus
- Shadi Ghabish (age 38) died of wounds sustained on 4 December 2015 near the Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah

- Extremist settlers from the illegal settlement "Mabo Dothan" near the Palestinian village of Yabad, south-west of Jenin, assaulted a Palestinian taxi driver and threw stones at Palestinian vehicles
- Israeli occupying forces razed a Palestinian-owned plot of land in Wadi Sa'ir, east of Al-Khalil, in order to establish a military watchtower in the area
- Occupying forces detained nine Palestinians from across the West Bank

2 January 2016:

- Israeli warplanes launched a series of air strikes targeting several locations across the Gaza Strip, causing extensive damage to properties and panic and fear among the civilian population

3 January 2016:

- Extremist settlers torched eight Palestinian-owned cars in the Al-Thawri neighbourhood of Jerusalem
- The leader of an extremist Israeli "anti-assimilation" group called "Lehava" recently renewed his calls to burn churches in Occupied East Jerusalem
- Israeli occupying forces detained 12 Palestinians from the West Bank districts, including Jerusalem, and summoned 4 others for interrogation

4 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 20 Palestinians during predawn and night raids
- Occupying forces filled with cement the homes of the two Palestinians, Alaa Abu Jamal and Bahaa Elayyan, who had been shot and killed by occupying forces in October 2015
- Occupying forces opened fire at Palestinian farmers trying to reach their fields east of Gaza City

5 January 2016:

- Ahmad Kawazbeh (age 18) was shot dead by occupying forces near the illegal "Gush Etzion" settlement area, north of Al-Khalil
- Occupying forces detained a total of 17 Palestinians, including at least 4 children, from several West Bank villages and towns
- Israeli occupying forces confiscated construction materials and equipment belonging to the municipality of Dahiriya, south-west of Al-Khalil
- The occupying Power ordered the demolition of two farm structures in Beit Ummar, north of Al-Khalil

6 January 2016:

- Occupying forces demolished five dwellings of Palestinian Bedouin families in the Abu Nuwwar community, east of Jerusalem, part of the so-called "E-1" corridor, leaving 25 people homeless

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 18 Palestinians, including several children, in multiple predawn detention raids across the West Bank
- Occupying forces fired at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Gaza, setting one of the boats on fire and destroying it
- The occupying Power is proceeding with plans to illegally construct a settlement on the land of a southern West Bank church compound. The church lies in a sensitive location between the illegal "Gush Etzion" settlement and illegal Israeli settlements around Al-Khalil, and its incorporation would establish a nearly continuous line of settlements between Jerusalem and Al-Khalil

7 January 2016:

- Occupying forces demolished two Palestinian homes in the Ein El-Lawza area of Jerusalem
- Occupying forces targeted Palestinian fishermen near Gaza City with gunfire
- Occupying forces killed three young Palestinian men north of Al-Khalil near the illegal settlement of "Gush Etzion"

In the face of such incessant crimes and the systematic violation of their human rights, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Palestinian people to believe in the promises of the rule of law and in the prospects for peace and justice. The increasing violence, extremism and cruelty of the Israeli occupation are destroying all such convictions with each passing day. We therefore again urge the international community to renew its resolve to redress this injustice and to ensure protection to the Palestinian people until a solution is secured.

We specifically implore the Security Council to uphold its Charter duties to address this conflict, which is undeniably a threat to regional and international peace and security. A credible political horizon is urgently needed to restore conviction in international law and in a negotiated political solution. The Council cannot stand idly by as the situation continues to deteriorate and tensions continue to rise in a region already in grave turmoil. It should act immediately to adopt a resolution that reaffirms the parameters of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet commitment to achieve a just, lasting solution and that sets a clear time frame for an end to the Israeli occupation and the fulfilment of Palestinian rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. As we approach the forty-ninth year since the onset of the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian land, we appeal for collective, serious and responsible action to salvage the prospects for peace and to set the Palestinian and Israeli peoples on the path towards its realization.

This letter is in follow-up to our 570 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 23 December 2015 (A/ES-10/707-S/2015/1023), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being

committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/709–S/2016/42

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 15 January 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate daily and the Palestinian civilian population continues to suffer immensely as Israel intensifies its occupation and its unlawful punitive measures and actions. As the calls from the Palestinian leadership and its people for international protection go unheeded, more innocent lives are being lost, as is any glimmer of hope that a peaceful solution can be achieved to free the Palestinian people from life under Israeli control and occupation. This situation warrants urgent attention by the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act to halt all violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, that continue to be perpetuated by the occupying Power with complete impunity.

In the recent period, Israel, the occupying Power, has, in particular, continued to target Palestinian youth and children, deepening their insecurity and vulnerability. In yet another incident of the countless violations committed against Palestinian youth and children, 12-year-old Ahmad Abu Al-Hummus, from the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Al-Issawiya, remains in critical condition and breathing with a machine after Israeli occupying forces shot him in the eye and head with a sponge-tipped bullet, yet another type of weapon in Israel's immense military arsenal that is unleashed routinely against the Palestinian people it occupies. On 8 January 2016, Ahmad Abu Al-Hummus was standing in the street when he was shot by occupying forces, which enter and raid the neighbourhood of Al-Issawiya on a nearly daily basis, causing casualties and violently and illegally arresting and detaining Palestinian civilians, many of them children. It should be noted that a report in December by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel revealed that, in 2015, at least 12 Palestinians lost an eye due to sponge-tipped bullet fire in Occupied East Jerusalem alone, roughly half of the casualties being children.

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In addition to the above, it has been documented that since the current period of unrest which began on 1 October 2015, 159 Palestinians, among them 29 children and 7 women, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers. Thousands more have been injured as occupying forces continue to use excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian civilians, and hundreds of others have been assaulted by Israeli soldiers and settlers.

Palestinian civilians also continue to be arrested and detained by the Israeli occupying forces by the hundreds. According to the Palestinian Centre for Prisoner Studies, Israeli occupying forces have detained more than 1,900 Palestinians from Occupied East Jerusalem alone in 2015, the majority minors, and at least 65 of whom were put under house arrest that in effect "turns the child's house itself to a prison and the family members to wardens". Hundreds of children are also being held captive in the occupation's jails under the most inhumane conditions, suffering physical and mental abuse, including torture. This must be roundly condemned by the international community, and Israel, the occupying Power, must be demanded to cease such violations and abide by international law.

Among the many other crimes and violations perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the recent period are the following:

7 January 2016:

- A Palestinian child, Khalil Mohammed Al-Shalaldah (age 16), was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces at Beit Einun junction, north-east of Al-Khalil

9 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces demolished the family home of Mohammed Al-Halabi, who was killed by occupying forces in early October in Surda village, north of Ramallah
- Ali Abu Mariam (age 23) and Said Abu Al-Wafa (age 38), who were delivering groceries, were shot dead by occupying forces at Al-Hamra Israeli checkpoint in the northern Jordan Valley

10 January 2016:

- Israel, the occupying Power, confiscated over 300 dunums of land near Ya'bad, to the west of Jenin, and declared it a closed military zone

11 January 2016:

- Occupying forces detained 21 Palestinians, including a child, from across the West Bank
- Occupying forces raided the campus of Birzeit University, north of Ramallah, where they destroyed office contents and seized papers and other belongings
- Zaid Al-Ashqar was shot and seriously injured at an Israeli checkpoint on the Jenin-Tulkarem road
- Occupying forces fired on Palestinian fishermen near Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip
- Occupying forces shot at a Palestinian child, Qusai Nimr (age 12)

12 January 2016:

- At least 16 Palestinians, including children, were detained by occupying forces in the West Bank

- Srour Ahmad Abu Srour (age 21) was killed by occupying forces in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem

- Mohammed Ahmad Khalil Kawazba (age 23) and Adnan Hamid Al-Mashni (age 17) were shot dead by occupying forces at Beit Einun junction, north-east of Al-Khalil

13 January 2016:

- Mousa Z'aiter (age 23) was killed and three other civilians were injured by Israeli artillery fire in the northern Gaza Strip

14 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Haitham Mahmoud Yaseen (age 36) at the entrance of Al-Aseera Al-Shamaliya village in Nablus

- Muayyad Awni Jabbarin (age 20) was shot and killed by the occupying forces near Beit Einun junction, north-east of Al-Khalil

15 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Mohammed Adel Abu Zayed (age 18) east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip

Given that the occupying Power has clearly chosen to continue with its aggression and crimes against the Palestinian people and their land, in grave breach of international humanitarian law and in complete violation of United Nations resolutions and all other applicable provisions of international law, we must once again reiterate our urgent appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations to act to bring an end to Israel's violations and to protect the Palestinian civilian population, in line with its Charter duties. The collective responsibility of the international community to contribute to a just solution to this conflict, including through Security Council action, must be upheld without delay. It is critical at this time to promote a clear political horizon that will help to de-escalate the situation, bring calm and revive the hope that a peaceful solution to end Israel's occupation and achieve justice and freedom for the Palestinian people in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, can still be achieved.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 571 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 January 2016 (A/ES-10/708-S/2016/17), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 22 January 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues its pursuit of illegal and provocative policies in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, to the grave detriment of the Palestinian people suffering the oppression of its illegal occupation and the prospects for a peaceful and just solution. Ongoing illegal Israeli policies and measures in the recent period are further exacerbating the volatile situation on the ground and heightening tensions between the two sides.

Once again, the international community is witnessing the obsession by Israel, the occupying Power, with its illegal settlement policy, including the destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, constituting clear violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This week, on 20 January 2016, the occupying Power authorized the declaration of 370 acres in the Occupied West Bank, south of Jericho, as so-called "state land". This, to be more exact, is occupied Palestinian land illegally confiscated and, coincidentally, adjacent to the illegal Israeli settlement of "Almog", in which Israeli settlers have been illegally present for the past 20 years.

If implemented, this plan would be the largest land expropriation by the occupying Power in the Occupied West Bank since August 2014, when, it should be recalled, Israel confiscated 4,000 dunums (988 acres) of land near the settlement of "Gush Etzion". In this regard, we take note of your recent press statement on this latest provocative declaration, in which it was reiterated that "settlement activities are a violation of international law and run counter to the public pronouncements of the Government of Israel supporting a two-State solution to the conflict".

In addition to such illegal measures, yesterday, the occupying Power, using armed bulldozers, demolished three housing structures belonging to Palestinian Bedouins in the Jabal Al-Baba neighbourhood of Al-Eizariya in the Occupied East

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Jerusalem area, displacing 17 Palestinians, half of them children. Israeli occupying forces and bulldozers raided and surrounded the Jabal Al-Baba neighbourhood and forcibly evacuated residents, many of whom were held at gunpoint while they demolished the houses. Besides the feelings of anger, extreme grief and resentment felt among the Palestinian population there, the demolitions caused fear and panic to spread among the children who were bearing witness to Israel's brute force and violence. The families whose homes were demolished were not even able to retrieve their personal possessions and thus lost everything when their homes were destroyed. Here, it is relevant to note that the homes demolished were mobile homes donated by the European Union. Moreover, the Jabal Al-Baba area, which has a population of 300 civilians, is under threat of more demolition plans as the occupying Power is proceeding with plans to build thousands of settlement units to further expand the so-called "E1" area.

We have repeatedly cautioned that Israel's illegal settlement campaign is undermining and fragmenting the contiguity and territorial integrity of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and physically threatens the viability and prospects for the physical realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. This is being carried out in flagrant and grave breach of international humanitarian law and complete defiance of the international community's condemnations and demands for a halt to all such provocative and illegal schemes.

The Palestinian leadership reiterates its demands that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind these latest decisions and cease immediately and completely all of its settlement activities in the Occupied State of Palestine, including in and around East Jerusalem, and abide by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. This is critical for salvaging the two-State solution and restoring any credibility whatsoever to Israel's alleged commitment to it.

In addition to illegal settlement activities and the destruction of property, the occupying Power continues to commit grave violations against the Palestinian people, violating nearly every human right, including the right to life. Palestinian civilians, including children, continue to be killed or seriously injured as the Israeli occupying forces and settler militias continue to use excessive, indiscriminate force against our defenceless, occupied people, with complete and utter impunity. It is clear that, without protection for the Palestinian people, as called for by the Palestinian leadership, more and more Palestinians will be killed while seeking freedom and the realization of their human rights. And what is clearer is that, without determined international action, Israel will continue to act above the law without fear of punishment or consequences.

It has been documented that, since the current period of unrest began on 1 October 2015, 162 Palestinians, among them 29 children and 7 women, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers. Thousands more have been injured as occupying forces continue to use excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian civilians, and hundreds of others have been assaulted by Israeli soldiers and settlers.

Below are just some of the crimes perpetrated by the occupying Power in the recent period:

15 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Mohammed Majdi Qita (age 26) east of the Al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip
- Occupying forces fired live and rubber-coated bullets and tear gas canisters at Palestinians peacefully demonstrating near the entrance of the Al-Jalzoun refugee camp north of Ramallah, injuring three children

16 January 2016:

- Wissam Qasarwah (age 21) was killed by occupying forces near the Huwwara checkpoint, near Nablus
- Israeli gunboats fired at Palestinian fishing boats off the Khan Younis shore in southern Gaza

17 January 2016:

- Israeli settlers wrote racist and inciting slogans in Hebrew on the gates of the Dormition Abbey Church in the Old City of Occupied East Jerusalem that provocatively read, among other things, "Kill the Christians, the enemy of Israel"
- Israeli occupying forces raided the Palestinian National Theatre in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, north of the Old City of Jerusalem, and banned it from holding a cultural event

18 January 2016:

- Occupying forces raided the village of Silwad, north-east of Ramallah, and arrested 14 civilians, taking them to an unknown destination
- An extremist settler from the illegal settlement "Ariel" ran over two young brothers, one of them a child, killing Khalil Mousa Amer (age 19) and injuring Odai Mousa Amer (age 17), west of Salfit in the northern West Bank

20 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces accompanied by bulldozers demolished a house belonging to Heba Abu Asab in the Beit Hanina neighbourhood, north of Occupied East Jerusalem
- Two tents used as shelters by Palestinian families living in the village of Susiya, east of Yatta, to the south of Al-Khalil, were torn down by occupying forces
- Extremist Israeli settlers attacked a number of Palestinian homes in the centre of Al-Khalil

21 January 2016:

- Occupying forces razed Palestinian-owned land located on the outskirts of the villages of Kafr Al-Labad and Shoufa, to the east of Tulkarem in the West Bank, to expand a nearby illegal settlement

- Occupying forces razed agricultural lands (15 dunums) belonging to the Al-Okl family west of the town of Beit Ola, north-west of Al-Khalil
- 19 Palestinians were detained by occupying forces in overnight raids across the West Bank
- Israeli occupying forces detained three children from the town of Yatta, south of Al-Khalil, while the children were grazing their sheep on the village's land. Hassan Ihmdat (age 12) and brothers Mithqal and Alaa Ihmedat (ages 12 and 13, respectively) were taken to an unknown destination.

The Palestinian leadership condemns all of Israel's illegal, destructive actions and calls on the international community, including the Security Council, to demand an end to all of Israel's illegal policies and practices in the Occupied State of Palestine, including all settlement activities and other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Should Israel continue to ignore the calls and the will of the international community, we call for the immediate consideration of measures to compel Israel's compliance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions to be taken by the Security Council, which is charged with "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". The international community can no longer only condemn or be appalled by Israel's illegal actions; it must take real action to bring an end to its illegal policies and practices, including its illegal, destructive colonization of occupied Palestinian land.

This letter is in follow-up to our 572 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 January 2016 (A/ES-10/709-S/2016/42), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 11 February 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate as a result of the unrelenting illegal and destructive policies and practices by Israel, the occupying Power, that are causing immense suffering to the Palestinian civilian population under occupation and severely diminishing the prospects for a peaceful solution. Unprotected, despite the very clear provisions of international law according protection to civilians under foreign occupation, the Palestinian people continue to endure countless human rights violations and war crimes at the hands of the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers. Tensions have consequently remained high, and anger, fear and despair among our people are rising as the convictions and chances for peace are further and further eroded.

Since our previous letter, the criminal actions by Israeli occupying forces and settlers have markedly intensified, no doubt bolstered by the culture of impunity and lawlessness that continues to prevail due to the failure to hold Israel accountable for any of its violations and crimes against the Palestinian people and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Such impunity has not only absolved Israel from its legal obligations as an occupying Power but has also emboldened its continued perpetration of crimes without fear of punishment. This has been to the grave detriment of the Palestinian people, who are enduring mounting casualties, harassment, humiliation and the destruction of their properties and land as the occupying Power continues to oppress the population and to impose its illegal colonial settlement agenda in complete disregard and violation of all norms and rules of international law, deepening this already grave injustice.

I regret to inform you that with each passing day more innocent Palestinian lives have been lost, among them many children and women. Just yesterday, another Palestinian child lost his life to this brutal occupation. Omar Jawabra (age 16) was shot in the chest and killed by Israeli occupying forces in Al-Arroub refugee camp,

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north of Al-Khalil. The Palestinian Ministry of Health has documented that, since the beginning of October 2015, Israeli occupying forces have killed 171 Palestinians, including 35 children and 8 women, and injured at least 16,000 Palestinians. Out of the 16,000 civilians injured, hundreds have been injured severely and have been forced to live the rest of their life with permanent and debilitating injuries, impacting forever their futures, their families, their communities and the society as a whole.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its arrest and detention raids throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Palestinian civilians are being detained daily, with young men and boys especially targeted by the Israeli occupying forces, who routinely assault, humiliate and severely abuse, including torture, Palestinian civilians they have arbitrarily arrested or detained. It is beyond shocking that, since October 2015, more than 2,700 Palestinians have been arrested by the occupying forces, with children constituting nearly half of that number. In this regard, I must draw your attention to the critical plight of one of the 527 Palestinians being held under administrative detention by Israel. Palestinian journalist Muhammad Al-Qiq, age 33, has been on a continuous hunger strike for 79 days in protest against his administrative detention without charge; his health has dramatically deteriorated and his life is in danger. We draw the international community's attention to his plight and urge it to undertake all efforts to compel Israel to release Mr. Al-Qiq and to fully respect its obligations under international humanitarian law in this regard, while we also underscore the continuing plight of the more than 6,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, among them children and women, being held captive by Israel, the occupying Power, and reiterate our demand for their release and respect for their human rights.

In addition, as has been widely reported in recent weeks, the occupying Power has continued with its destructive colonial settlement campaign throughout Occupied Palestine, including and especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. Settlement construction and expansion continue, land confiscations continue and home demolitions continue, all unabated, depriving Palestinian civilians of their property and of shelter, rendering dozens of families homeless, violating numerous other human rights and further undermining the contiguity of our land and the viability of the two-State solution on the 1967 borders. International humanitarian law is blatantly clear — the transfer by the occupying Power of its civilian population into the occupied territory is strictly prohibited and constitutes a grave breach. In equal regard, the wanton and deliberate destruction of civilian properties and all such acts of collective punishment and reprisal are prohibited and constitute breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Yet, Israel continues to trample the law and continues to evade any and all accountability for these crimes.

In this regard, in addition to grieving the loss of a loved one, countless Palestinian families have had to endure the collective punishment of the destruction of their homes by the occupying Power. Despite the international appeals for it to cease such reprisals and respect international humanitarian law, Israel persists with the punitive demolition of the homes of Palestinians alleged to have perpetrated acts of violence against Israelis. Numerous families, including children, have been thus rendered homeless in the recent period, their dwelling and belongings completely destroyed by the occupying Power, in blatant acts of collective punishment. Surely,

such violations can only provoke more rage towards the occupation and further inflame tensions and hatred.

Below are just some of the innumerable crimes perpetrated by the occupying Power, in the period since our previous letter to you:

23 January 2016:

- A Palestinian girl, Ruqayya Abu 'Eid (age 13), was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces outside the illegal settlement "Anatot" to the north-east of Occupied East Jerusalem.

25 January 2016:

- Israeli warplanes launched multiple airstrikes targeting locations in the southern Gaza Strip.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 10 Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces assaulted four Palestinians after they were released from an Israeli detention centre near the "Salem" military complex, north-west of Jenin, causing serious physical harm, including bruising all over their bodies.
- Ibrahim Allan (age 23) and Hussein Abu Ghosh (age 17) were shot dead by Israeli occupying forces outside the illegal settlement of "Beit Horon", north-east of Ramallah.

26 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained four Palestinians from Jerusalem, Jenin and Qalqiliya.

27 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces demolished a Palestinian home and the foundations of another in Occupied East Jerusalem under the pretext of "construction without a permit".

28 January 2016:

- Occupying forces issued eviction orders to several Palestinian families from Ein Al-Rushrash, south of Nablus. There are about 85 Palestinians living in 30 residential structures in this locality.
- Occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians, including a lawmaker and four children, during pre-dawn raids across West Bank.

29 January 2016:

- Hundreds of Israeli occupying forces stormed Al-Quds Open University in Abu Dis and confiscated equipment and documents belonging to its student union.

30 January 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian farmers tending to their land located along the borderline to the south and north of the Gaza Strip.

31 January 2016:

- Occupying forces detained 10 Palestinians from Al-Khalil and Bethlehem.

- The occupying Power issued administrative detention orders, without charge or trial, against 32 Palestinian detainees, while 23 Palestinians had their sentences renewed.

- Amjad Sukkari (age 29) was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces at the Beit El military checkpoint, north-east of Ramallah.

1 February 2016:

- A Palestinian youth, Ahmad Toba (age 19), was shot dead by occupying forces near the illegal settlement "Salit", south of Tulkarem.

- Israeli occupying forces detained seven Palestinians, including children, during separate incidents across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

- Occupying forces detained 10 Palestinian workers at the Tarqomia military checkpoint to the west of Al-Khalil.

- Occupying forces detained three Palestinians, including a disabled minor, in Al-Khalil.

2 February 2016:

- Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses in Occupied East Jerusalem.

- Illegal Israeli settlers assaulted and injured a Palestinian youth outside an illegal Israeli settlement of "Kiryat Arba" located on the eastern outskirts of Al-Khalil.

- Occupying forces demolished several Palestinian homes in Janba and Al-Halawa, south of Al-Khalil.

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 34 Palestinians across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, mostly during pre-dawn and night raids.

3 February 2016:

- Occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians from across the West Bank, in addition to four fishermen from the Gaza Strip.

- Israeli occupying bulldozers infiltrated Gaza's borders from the eastern part of Al-Fakhari village, east of Khan Younis.

- Israeli settlers entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Occupied East Jerusalem, inciting and provoking tension with Palestinian worshipers.

- Israeli occupying forces demolished a car repair workshop in the town of Issawiya, in the northern outskirts of Occupied East Jerusalem.

- Ahmed Rajeh Zakarneh, Mohammed Ahmed Kmail and Ahmed Najeh Abu Al-Rab were shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces outside Bab Al-Amoud Gate in Occupied East Jerusalem.

4 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces demolished a Palestinian private-owned hall in Al-Ezariya, east of Jerusalem, under the pretext of "construction without a permit".

- A Palestinian child, Mohammad Abbas Zakarneh (age 16), was run over and seriously injured in the head by an Israeli armoured truck, during a military raid in the town of Qabatia, south of Jenin.

- Occupying forces demolished residential tents and animal barns in the village of Mekassar, in northern Jordan Valley, and demolished three agricultural structures in the village of Bil'in, near Ramallah.

- Israeli occupying forces detained 29 Palestinians overnight mostly during pre-dawn raids across the West Bank.

5 February 2016:

- A Palestinian child, Haitham Ismail Al-Baw (age 14), was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces in Halhul, north of Al-Khalil. His cousin, Wajdi Yusif Al-Baw (age 12), was reportedly injured and detained during the incident.

- Israeli occupying forces issued a demolition order for the family home of Mourad Adais (age 15), who was detained in January, in the village of Beit Amra in Yatta.

6 February 2016:

- Israeli forces detained two Palestinians from Jenin and East Jerusalem in overnight military raids.

7 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained 7 Palestinians, including 3 children, and summoned 4 others from across the West Bank.

8 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces targeted Palestinian farmers to the east of the Gaza Strip's Al-Bureij refugee camp and fishermen offshore from Gaza City with a barrage of gunfire.

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 22 Palestinians in overnight raids in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

9 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces demolished and removed Palestinian private-owned residential tents and animal barns in Khirbet Tana, a small village to the east of Nablus.

- Israeli settlers assaulted and injured a Palestinian shepherd, Khader Hamad (age 65), in Masafer Yatta, a Bedouin area south of Al-Khalil, while he was grazing sheep.

10 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained 17 Palestinians, including a child, during pre-dawn military raids across the West Bank.

- A Palestinian child, Omar Jawabra (age 16), was shot and killed in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Al-Khalil.

- Israeli settlers attacked the car of a Palestinian driver, Saeed Abu Haniaw, with an axe while he was driving on the Qalqilia-Nablus road.

- Israeli occupying forces demolished three residential structures and an animal barn, and destroyed a water pipeline in the village of Al-Jiftlek, in the northern Jordan Valley.

For all the injustices being perpetuated every day against the Palestinian people, we reiterate our call for immediate international action. We call on the international community to condemn and reject Israel's excessive and indiscriminate use of force against the Palestinian civilian population and to confront this crisis situation without delay with a view to upholding international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and to preventing the continued deterioration of this dangerous situation. In this regard, we reiterate our appeal for protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with international humanitarian law. Moreover, we reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable in accordance with international law and the principles of justice for all of its violations and for its continuing obstruction of peace. A primary step in this regard is action by the Security Council. The Council must immediately act to uphold its Charter duties and implement its own resolutions in order to alleviate this crisis and compel an end to Israel's aggression and crimes, thus tangibly contributing to the decades-long search for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict before it slips out of reach.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 573 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 January 2016 (A/ES-10/710-S/2016/65) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations